

JANUARY
2016

Florence Events Center

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WINTER MUSIC FESTIVAL

Florence Events Center
January 16-17, 2016



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FEC to host Artistic Visions exhibit through February

Original 2-D, 3-D and photography works from local artists will be on display during the Artistic Visions Awards Show through January at the FEC. This awards show is sponsored by the Friends of the Florence Event Center Gallery Committee, and will be on display from Jan. 5 through Feb. 1, 2016.

Three out-of-town judges were selected for this show, each one respected in their field of expertise (2-D, 3-D, photography).

A cash prize of \$150 will be awarded for first place in each category, along with honorable mention ribbons, with each artist allowed to submit up to three works of art. Reproductions (ink jet prints, etc., with the exception of photography) of original artwork were not eligible.

A special artists reception will be held Saturday, Jan. 9, from 2 to 5 p.m., during the Second Saturday Art Tour.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY

Artistic Visions art reception — Jan. 9
Winter Music Festival Kids Concerts —
Jan. 14
Winter Music Festival — Jan. 16 and 17
Siuslaw Awards — Jan. 20
Jesse Cook concert — Jan. 29
Jazz Kings — Jan. 30

FEBRUARY

Lane Blood Mobile — Feb. 8
Chamber Business Expo — Feb. 11
For the Love of Animals art exhibit — Feb.
12
CROW Share Your Heart — Feb. 13
Ballet Fantastique — Feb. 20
If Gathering women's conference — Feb.
27



ONGOING EVENTS:
Florence Rotary Club luncheon -
Tuesdays at noon

CROW auditions begin for spring production of Shrek the Musical, Jr.

In a faraway kingdom, the green ogre, Shrek, finds his swamp invaded by banished fairytale misfits, runaways who've been cast off by Lord Farquaad, a tiny terror with big ambitions. When Shrek sets off with a wise-cracking donkey to confront Farquaad, he's handed a task: if he rescues feisty Princess Fiona from the Dragon-guarded tower, his swamp will be returned to him.

But, a fairy tale wouldn't be complete without unexpected twists and turns along the way. Part romance and part twisted fairy tale, "Shrek The Musical, Jr.," is an irreverently fun show for the whole family. CROW (Children's Repertory of Oregon Workshops) has announced open auditions, Jan. 11 and 12, for the musical comedy with book and lyrics by David Lindsay-Abaire, and music by Jeanine Tesori.

This marks CROW's fifth mainstage production at the Florence Events Center.

The show will be performed April 15, 16 and 17, and for invited school audiences on April 14. Local audiences may recall that last spring, CROW produced a main stage production of "Once Upon A Mattress," which dazzled and delighted local audiences. CROW is a Florence-based nonprofit organization dedicated to giving back to the community by providing quality performing arts experiences to local youth.

Artistic director Melanie Heard is a credentialed teacher, and founder of the program. "We are not your 'typical' children's theatre organization," says Heard. "There is no charge to participate in a CROW mainstage musical, and this differentiates us from 95 percent of all other youth theatre organizations in the nation."

"It's much more than just theatre. It's an opportunity to hone crucial life skills such as teamwork, motivation, dedication and self-esteem," says Heard. "We hope that these things will serve our kids well, no matter what life path they may select."

In addition to providing a very professional work environment for the cast members, CROW utilizes the highest caliber costumes, sets, lighting design, choreography, music, sound, stage makeup and more.

"Just wait till you see this year's fire breathing dragon," says Heard.

There are great roles for ages 6 to 22 and older, and all young people are encouraged to try out regardless of previous stage experience. Mature 4- to 6-year-olds may be considered for "Telegrammers." Auditions will be held at the Siuslaw Middle School cafeteria on Jan. 11 and 12, at 6:30 p.m. Invited callbacks will be held on Jan. 13 at 6:30 p.m.

There are approximately 40 to 45 onstage roles,

and several behind the scenes jobs for kids interested in technical theatre. To audition or participate backstage, kids must attend the audition. Onstage performer hopefuls will need to bring 16-32 bars from a song that they would like to sing (sheet music or a CD, MP3 track with no background voices is also acceptable), and a headshot and resume if available.

Prospective cast members will also be taught a short dance combination, and those asked to come to callbacks will read sides from the script.

No experience is required, so don't be afraid to come and give it a try. Interested families are encouraged to check out the CROW website for all of the information needed to prepare for the audition. Rehearsals will begin Jan. 25 and are generally held weeknights from 6:30 to 8:45 p.m. A schedule will be available for perusal at the audition.

Heard stresses that performing in these productions is a big commitment.

"Performing in one of our shows is very hard work and requires dedication, but when the curtain opens in April, we know you will agree that it was worth it," Heard says. For a casting breakdown, FAQ's, and detailed audition information, visit www.crowkids.com, or contact Heard at 541-999-8641 or by email at crowtheatrekids@yahoo.com.



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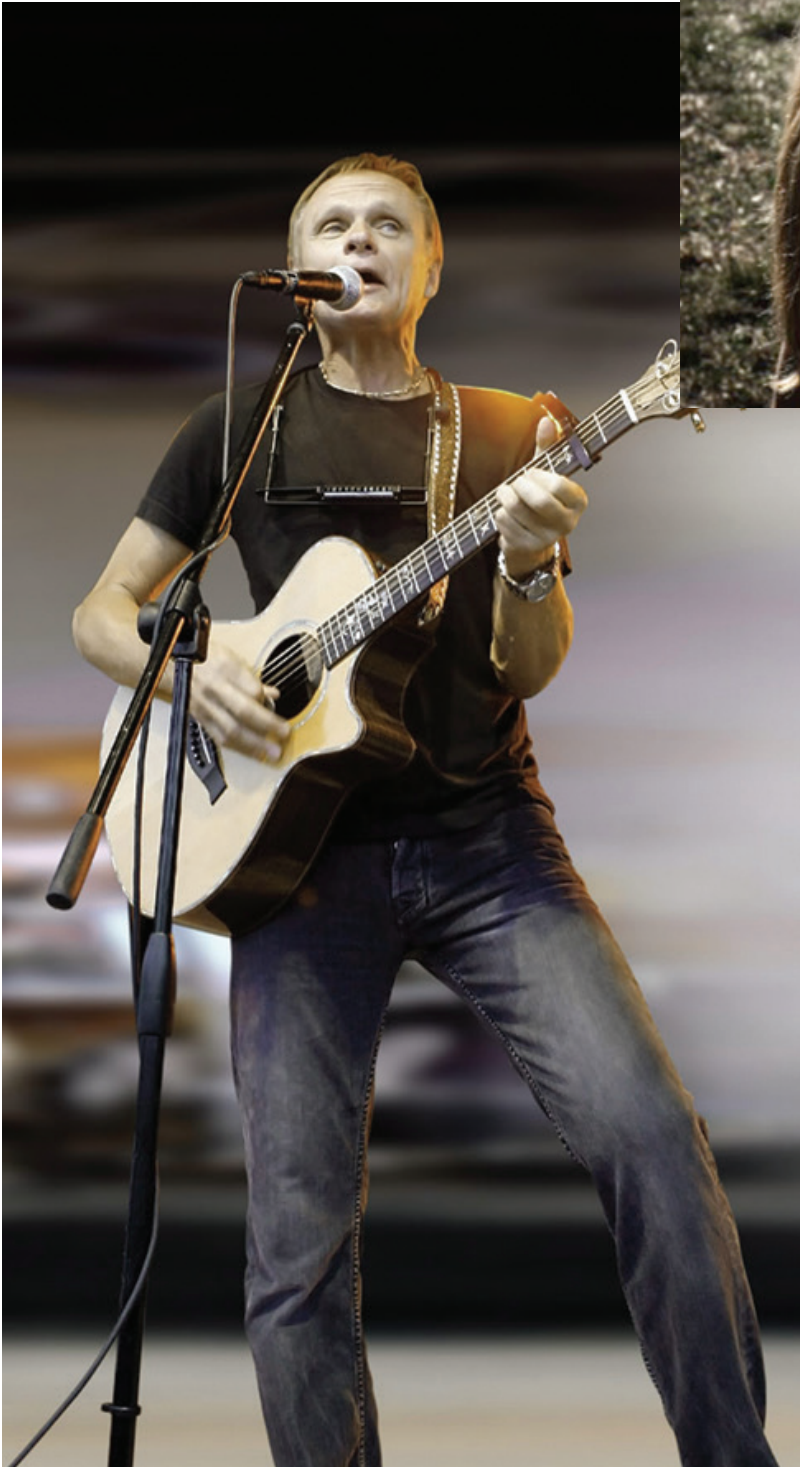
Winter means sweet music during annual two-day festival

The Winter Music Festival will feature nearly a dozen acts as well as an artisan fair

The Florence Winter Music Festival takes place Jan. 16 and 17 at the Florence Events Center. Co-headliners Shook Twins and Jonathan Edwards will add depth, spice and variety to the Oregon Coast's premier winter music festival, previously known as the Winter Folk Fest.

An additional 10 musical acts, an artisan fair and food sampling broaden the festival's traditionally tasty menu.

The two-day event is an exciting and diverse bright spot in what can be a dreary time in the Pacific Northwest. It draws attendance from up and down the West Coast from among those who enjoy quality Americana, bluegrass, and contemporary folk music.



By expanding its offerings without discarding its traditional folk music past, organizers are highlighting several rising performers from the Pacific Northwest.

Identical twins Katelyn and Laurie Shook anchor their exciting Indie folk-pop band with an eclectic, amusing and whimsical approach featuring banjo, mandolin, ukulele and glockenspiel, as well as electric and acoustic bass and guitar. USA Today says the group "is ready to rattle the music world."

Jonathan Edwards, a true singer-songwriter in a league with James Taylor, Carole King and Jim Croce, marks four decades of a stellar career. He continues to tour and deliver songs of passion, insight and humor with his signature pure-and-powerful tenor voice. Edwards scored a massive Top 5 hit with the catchy and defiant protest song "Sunshine (Go Away Today)" in 1971. He followed with "Shanty," a harmonica-enriched tune with lots of bouncy, bluesy piano. His newest album, "Tomorrow's Child," features numerous Nashville luminaries like Shawn Colvin, Vince Gill, Alison Krauss and others.

Ten different local, regional, and

nationally known artists will fill the stage with a series of concerts beginning at 11 a.m. each day. These include Crow and the Canyon, Cabin Fever NW, John Craigie, Ian McFeron, True North, Bob Haworth, Danny Barnes and the popular contemporary folk music duo Pretty Gritty.

Local flavor includes Siuslaw High School graduate Billy Jones, an up-and-coming singer; and singer/songwriter Molly Hardin, who played at the Backstreet Gallery during the 2015 Rods 'n' Rhodies event.

The festival also includes a two-day Artisan Fair with dozens of art, craft, and food vendors exhibiting and selling their wares during and between concerts. Doors open for the Artisan Fair at 10:00 a.m. Saturday and Sunday. Concerts begin at 11 a.m.

Organizers are retaining other traditional elements of the weekend including the Saturday Pie Sale (which continues Sunday or until the pies run out), but this year will see the addition of food tastings, a new caterer, and collaborative events at City Lights Cinema.

"The goal isn't to change the event as much as it is to refresh the sound and expand the appeal with more variety, all the while retaining the overall flavor a predominantly acoustic blend of Americana, bluegrass, and contemporary music," says Rachel Pearson, chairperson of the Friends of the Florence Events Center committee which raises support for the FEC and produces the event.

Winter Music Festival to transport students through centuries of immigration

For the fourteenth year in a row, the Friends of the Florence Events Center's Winter Music Festival Kids' Concert turns the FEC's auditorium into a good old-fashioned, raise-the-roof, kid-friendly hootenanny.

Florence mayor Joe Henry will serve as host and emcee to nearly 900 school children on Thursday, January 14.

As part of the annual two-day, 12-band extravaganza that is the Florence Winter Music Festival, students in first through fifth grade from Florence, Mapleton, and Reedsport will be transported back in time the performances of The Trail Band, an Oregon-based eight-piece ensemble that features songs from the various ethnic and cultural groups who have settled over the centuries in what is now Oregon.

"I first heard The Trail Band in 2000 during a concert at the FEC and thought, 'We've got to get our local school kids in to hear this, and give them a top-quality educational concert in a real theater,'" said Winter Music Festival chairperson Rachel Pearson.

The two performances, each for more than 450 kids, are by invitation only to students, teachers, and their official chaperones. Pearson said the concerts provide a chance for each child to feel special and valued for their participation and effort while belonging to a larger, significant, school-wide event.

"These students are not only hearing lively tunes, they are happily absorbing history, folklore, rhythms, and ideas from cultures all over the world," added Pearson. "All the singing, clapping, and laughing to traditional folk songs serve to enrich learning. Combined with songs from other countries and watching examples of native Umatilla and Yakima tribes' ceremonial dress and dance, students get an integrated cultural and art experience they wouldn't otherwise receive. It has a contagious, exponential effect on learning."

Pearson said the cooperation of the teachers is what transports the Kids Concerts beyond a simple music experience.

"Teachers prepare students for the concert by investing classroom time in reading song lyrics, map study, research on peoples and populations, doing related art projects, and more," explained Pearson. "Every teacher receives a CD of The Trail Band's music for classroom use. For example, Deb Dietrich, Siuslaw Elementary's



music teacher, incorporates the music into her classroom curriculum; and Lynn Anderson's Siuslaw Indian Education students will perform the Intertribal Happy Dance on stage with The Trail Band."

In addition, the Friends of the FEC pays for a music teacher to travel to Mapleton to teach the music in a formal setting. In the integrated process, every student has a chance to create a piece of art which will then decorate the auditorium walls.

More information, including artist profiles and tickets, is available through WinterMusicFestival.org. A full weekend pass is just \$45 and includes Saturday and Sunday day passes for all concerts, and admission to the Jonathan Edwards and Shook Twins concert. Individual passes for Saturday's or Sunday's daytime concerts that begin at 11 a.m. are \$12.50 for each day. Individual tickets for the Shook Twins and Jonathan Edwards concert are \$28.

Sponsors and underwriters include: The River House Inn and The Old Town Inn, Driftwood Shores, Pier Point Inn, Waterfront Depot, Art and Jean Koning (Terrace Homes), Grocery Outlet, The City of Florence, Seacoast Entertainment Association board members, the Oregon Community Foundation, the Mapleton Community Foundation, the Kiwanis Club of Florence, Ladies of the Elks, Trillium Community Health Plan, Coast Radio KCST/KCFM, The Siuslaw News, Oregon Coast Magazine, Eugene radio stations KLCC and KRVM, Nan Osbon, Florence Elks Lodge after Grocery Outlet, and Frances & Frank Williams after Nan Osbon Maire Testa, and in memory of Art and Ann Rule.




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Jesse Cook to bring a little Havana to Florence

On Jan. 29, a little bit of Havana will come to Florence when world-acclaimed guitarist and vocalist Jesse Cook performs at the Florence Events Center.

A student of classical and jazz guitar at Canada's Royal Conservatory of Music, York University, and Berklee College of Music in The United States, Cook has often quipped that he later attempted to unlearn it all while immersing himself in the oral traditions of Gypsy music. This helped him widen his range of musical tastes.

Cook, who spent the first few years of his life moving between Paris, Southern France and Barcelona, was fascinated as a toddler by the guitar and tried to emulate the sound he heard coming from his parents' recordings of Manitas de Plata, a famous Gypsy guitarist from the region of Southern France. He has been pursuing and developing his own musical style ever since.

"My strange way of playing guitar is a hybrid of styles. I was a classical guitarist as a kid, and I studied flamenco and then I studied jazz." says Cook. "So there are three musical and guitar traditions in my background. Music is a constantly evolving thing."

Cook has recorded eight studio albums, three live DVDs and has traveled the world exploring musical traditions that he has blended into his style of rumba flamenco. In addition to headlining concerts and festivals, he has opened for such legends as B.B. King, Ray Charles and Diana Krall. He has performed with Welsh soprano Charlotte Church on "The Tonight Show" and toured with legendary Irish band, The Chieftains.

Other artists Cook has performed and/or recorded with include: Montse Cortés (Spain), Flora Purim (Brazil), Holly Cole (Canada), Afro Celt Sound System (England), Buckwheat Zydeco (USA), Danny Wilde of The Rembrandts (USA), Liona Boyd (Canada), Ofra

Harnoy (Canada), Alex Cuba (Cuba), Los Gaiteros de San Jacinto (Colombia), Dadawa (China), Djivan Gasparyan (Armenia), and Dulce Pontes (Portugal), among others.

His music has been featured on several episodes of "Sex and The City," "The Chris Isaak Show" and at several Olympic Games.

At the 2006 Winter Olympics, Irina Slutskaya of Russia won a bronze medal skating to Cook's composition "Mario Takes a Walk." In 1998, Cook was nominated for a Juno Award as Instrumental Artist of the Year. In 2001, he received a Juno Nomination for Best Male Artist. In 2001, Cook won a Juno Award in the Best Instrumental Album category for "Free Fall."

In 2009, he was Acoustic Guitar's Player's Choice Award silver winner in the Flamenco category (gold went to Paco de Lucia). He is a three-time winner of the Canadian Smooth Jazz award for Guitarist of the Year and numerous other awards.

For Jesse Cook, music has been a journey both literally and sonically. "Over the years, I've taken my music and tried to cross-pollinate it with music from different parts of the world," he says. "For the (2003) album 'Nomad,' I went to Cairo and recorded with musicians there. On my (2009) record 'The

Rumba Foundation,' I went to Colombia and worked with musicians from Cuba as well. For me, the question has always been: Where did you go? Where did you take your guitar?"

Cook will perform on the main stage Jan. 29, beginning at 7 p.m., with a pre-concert talk at 6:15 p.m. Tickets are \$30 for adults or \$10 for children. For tickets, call 541-997-1994, stop in at the FEC box office at 715 Quince Street or visit www.eventcenter.org.



Siuslaw Awards to celebrate Florence's top businesses, community leaders

The eighth annual Siuslaw Business Awards banquet, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, will take place Jan. 20, at the FEC. Doors open at 6 p.m., with dinner served at 6:30 p.m. This prestigious event recognizes excellence in the local business community by naming recipients for awards in Excellence in Customer Service, Curb Appeal, Nonprofit Achievement, Community Caring, and the Stu Johnston Business of the Year Award.

This year, the Florence Chamber has added a new category: Innovation in Business. The recipient of this award will be a business that has introduced an innovative product or service, or operates in a mode where innovation is built into the culture of the company.

The Siuslaw Awards also recognizes two outstanding individuals in the community by honoring them with the

Future First Citizen Award and the First Citizen Award. The First Citizen Award recognizes that individual who has given selflessly to the community based on community involvement, leadership and overall community impact.

The Future First Citizen Award recognizes that student based on his or her academic success as well as civic involvement and contributions to the community.

The Florence Area Chamber of Commerce will also recognize an individual or business that has selflessly given of their time and efforts in supporting the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce and its efforts with the Distinguished Service Award.

Tickets are \$35 and available from the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce. For more information, call the Florence Chamber at 541-997-3128.

Upcoming SEAc coast concerts promise wide variety, top-notch talent



When SEAc coast Entertainment Association announced its 2015-16 concert lineup, SEAc coast president Ernie Doud promised it would be another outstanding season of quality entertainment for Florence.

So far, SEAc coast has delivered. Big time.

The season kicked-off Oct. 9 when Latin Grammy-nominated pop/jazz/classical artists Quattrosound wowed the Florence Events Center crowd with their outstanding and diverse talents by introducing Florence to a delicious new blended genre called "popzzical."

Then, Nov. 21, renowned vocalist Ken Lavigne filled the FEC concert hall with his charm, wit and outstanding voice for a memorable evening of international caliber entertainment.

Doud says the remainder of the season will get progressively better.

"While most don't get the chance to dine in the cafés of Seville or dance in the clubs in Havana, you will experience a sense of that passionate cultural vibe through the music of guitarist Jesse Cook and his band," says Doud.

Cook's music has been featured on episodes of Sex and The City, The Chris Isaak Show, and during several Olympic Games. Jesse and his group of multit talented musicians perform Jan. 29, 2016.

On Feb. 20, Ballet Fantastique brings the premiere of Dragon and the Night Queen: Celtic Stories, which forges a new and dramatic retelling of ancient Irish legends in a vivid exploration of choreography and dance filled with riotous spirit. Violinist Cullen Vance and the Gerry Rempel Ensemble provide the exuberant live accompaniment.

"On Friday, March 18, one of most popular and sought-after big bands in the world, the Glenn Miller Orchestra, returns to Florence," adds Doud. "SEAc coast

Entertainment will open the Florence Event Center's flat floor so you can enjoy big band music the way it was intended-with dancing and limited, open, cabaret-style seating; so buy your tickets early!"

"You choose, we play," say the members of the world-class ensemble, Shuffle Concert. From Baroque to classical and romantic; from jazz, to pop and Broadway, this group is so multit talented they let the audience select the pieces they will play.

"You've never been to a concert like this," says Doud. "Every performance is a completely customized and memorable experience."

Shuffle plays a rare Thursday night concert on April 7.

"And you'll be in luck on Friday, the 13th of May, when The New Hot Club of America comes to 'wow' Florence," says Doud. "This dazzling ensemble is comprised of some of today's top gypsy jazz artists in North America. You'll want to tango in your seat as they recapture the sound, style, and spirit of the 1930's-era Hot Club of France — right here in Florence."

For 35 years, SEAc coast Entertainment Association has provided Florence with world-class entertainment at affordable prices — from household names to

undiscovered gems.

"From classics to jazz, from eclectic to electric, from ballet to big band, Florence is loving this season's variety. Our remaining five shows will offer something for everyone," says Doud.

Individual concert tickets for the performances are \$30 each, and \$10 for those under 18. Tickets, artist profiles, show times, video clips, and more information are available at www.SEAc coastEA.org.

Tickets can also be purchased at the Florence Events Center box office, 715 Quince Street; by phone at 541-997-1994; or online at www.eventcenter.org.



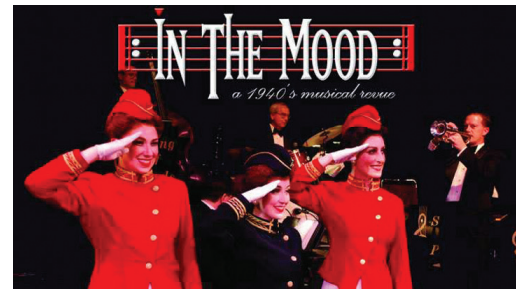
Jazz Kings to put Florence 'In the Mood'



For the second installment of its Swing Era classics, the Jazz Kings will examine the great songs of 1939 thru '42. Audiences will hear more music from Jimmy Dorsey, Benny Goodman, Duke Ellington and the Andrews Sisters, as well as great songs from Glenn Miller, Harry James, Artie Shaw, Vera Lynn, Helen Forrest and Bing Crosby.

Expect to hear classics like "Brazil," "I Don't Want to Walk Without You," "Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree," "Jersey Bounce," "A String of Pearls," "Beat Me Daddy Eight To The Bar," "Ko Ko," "The Breeze and I," "In the Mood," "Frenesi," "We'll Meet Again," "Hold Tight, Hold Tight," "Take the 'A' Train" and "You Made Me Love You."

The Jazz Kings will perform Saturday, Jan. 30, from 2 to 4 p.m. Tickets for this popular musical show are \$25 and can be purchased at the Florence Events Center box office, 715 Quince Street; by phone at 541-997-1994; or online at www.eventcenter.org.



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Get tickets early for fifth annual Crab Crack

The fifth annual Florence Crab Crack is a sure fire remedy for the dreaded “cabin fever,” which threatens to afflict the general populace of the central Oregon coast every winter. Get your ticket and join the other 399 people who will attend the Crab Crack at the Florence Events Center on Saturday, Feb. 6, from 4 to 7 p.m. Enjoy great food and company while aiding the less fortunate in this area.

Tickets are available Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Florence Food Share, 2190 Spruce St. All the proceeds from this event will benefit Florence Food Share, a local food pantry that provides resources to those facing hunger in Western Lane County.

Oregon coast Dungeness crab, along with pasta, coleslaw, garlic bread, sodas, coffee and BJ’s Ice Cream, will be served by “crab head” volunteers. A no-host bar will also be available.

While savoring the delectable crustaceans and side dishes, attendees will also have the opportunity to purchase one or many of the special silent auction items.

Tickets to this event are \$35 each, with only 400 tickets available. The deadline for ticket purchases is Jan. 25 and will not be available at the door. Past Crab Cracks have sold out early, so get tickets early.

Several sponsors are already stepping up to make this event possible. All individuals and companies are welcome to “sponsor a crab” for the event and help Florence Food Share serve those in need in our area.

For more information, arrange group seating or purchase tickets, contact Bob MacDuffee at 541-997-9599 or email dunesguy97439@yahoo.com.



Local youth repertory theater CROW to host second-annual Share Your Heart fundraiser

Anyone who’s ever had a really big dream knows that the word “impossible” can’t be part of the vocabulary. Artistic director and CROW (Children’s Repertory of Oregon Workshops) founder Melanie Heard said that big dreams “bring a rare combination of feeling excited and terrified at the same time.”

It was Heard’s dream of establishing and renovating a building to house the program’s many set pieces, as well as rehearsals and workshops, that led to purchase and renovation of the new building CROW was able to establish last year — thanks in large part to funds raised during the 2015 Share Your Heart event.

On Friday, Feb. 13, at 7 p.m. CROW will present an incredible opportunity for the Florence community to become personally involved in continuing to support the dreams of local youth and the arts.

“Share Your Heart is a fundraising party like nothing you’ve ever attended,” said Heard. “It’s designed to raise funds for our nonprofit to continue pursuing our dreams for CROW.”

Reservations are required for this event. Single tickets are \$39 for adults and \$25 for youth (12 and under). A full table of 8 can also be purchased for \$285. Tickets include wine (adults only) and hot hors d’oeuvres, as well as a chance to bid on the amazing baskets, prizes and desserts up for grabs. The evening will culminate with a “Raise Your Paddle” donation opportunity that we hope will kick off fundraising with a big bang.

For tickets, visit the Florence Events Center box office, 715 Quince Street; call at 541-997-1994; or order tickets online at www.eventcenter.org.

Ballet Fantastique to present Celtic stories

Be swept away by the magic and whimsy portrayed by Eugene’s critically acclaimed Ballet Fantastique as it presents “The Dragon and the Night Queen: Celtic Stories.” The performance, choreographed and produced by Donna and Hannah Bontrager, will transport audience members to ancient Ireland for a dream-like visit of a mesmerizing world haunted by elemental powers and dragons, gatekeepers to other worlds, and guardians of universal treasures.

In Dragon and the Night Queen: Celtic Stories, the Bontragers forge a new telling of ancient Irish legends with live music by The Gerry Rempel Ensemble and internationally-renowned Irish musician Eliot Grasso. There is new choreography, drama and live songcraft capturing the rich myths of Morgan le Fay (sea goddess of the legends of Avalon), the Night Queen Rhiannon, the Morrigan, and the Dragon King.

Anchored in the medieval, Dragon and the Night Queen promises a bonny, defiant new ballet — a vivid exploration of new borders, filled with riotous spirit.

The performance at the FEC will take place Feb. 20, beginning with a pre-talk with cast members at 6:15, followed by the live performance at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 to \$30, and are available at the Florence Events Center box office, 715 Quince Street; call at 541-997-1994; or order tickets online at www.eventcenter.org.



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Local artists to begin 'Dance with Sea Lions' in preparation for FEC's 20th anniversary

2016 marks the FEC's 20th anniversary as a leader in community arts and entertainment. A coast-wide celebration of this milestone will come in the form of the iconic sea lion and its longstanding relationship with the Florence area. Jennifer Connor, FEC marketing specialist and event coordinator, said, "This is a project not just for the FEC and our celebration, but a project for the city, community and whole Oregon coast."

Dancing with Sea Lions will be a public art display sponsored by the nonprofit group Friends of the Florence Events Center and local businesses and individuals.

As many as 20 area artists will be a large part of the historic project, which is centered around 20 fiberglass sea lions that are 7.5-foot tall. Each is a blank canvas that can be decorated to reflect the artist's own unique style. Sponsorships are available for the project. Sponsoring a sea lion costs \$1,500, with a total of 20 sponsorships available. Other sponsorship options are also available. For example, two businesses, Sea Lion Caves, Three Rivers Casino Resort and FURA, have teamed up under the name "Stellar Underwriters."

"I keep going back to our original theme, that the arts have a ripple effect on the community. Art reaches out to all ages, and this project will reach out to all ages too," Connor said.

The "blank canvas" is a plain design nicknamed "Porter," which is modeled after a cow sea lion.

The project officially kicked off Nov. 1, when the call to artists went out. A grant from Spirit Mountain Community Fund will provide a \$500 stipend for the artists who are selected and complete their project.

"In the beginning, they will get \$250 up front so that they can get their supplies and start the project. When the sea lion is completed, they'll get another \$250. We hope that's an incentive to bring in the artists, and that will get a lot of ideas going," said Connor.

The Florence Public Arts Committee is helping set standards, so certain designs will not be allowed. Selected artists were notified by the end of December. They will receive their statues this month and finish work in March, before the April 7 and 8 Dancing with Sea Lions Splash Off, when all 20 unique sea lions will be on display at the

FEC.

"I foresee some of these sea lions will be in the area for years," said Connor.

While they are on display, a map will detail each of the 20 locations, starting at the Umpqua Discovery Center in Reedsport, stretching through Florence to the Sea Lion Caves on Highway 101 and up toward the Sea Lion Foundation in Newport. Many of the sea lions will be available for auction in October 2016.

For more information about Dancing with Sea Lions, visit www.facebook.com/DancingWithSeaLions.



Calling all artists 'For the Love of Animals'

The month of February will include the second annual "For the Love of Animals" exhibit at FEC. This highly successful event is a chance as an artistic community to support the local Florence Area Humane Society (FAHS). By renting a rod for \$20 for up to three paintings or photographs, artists can help get the word out about the importance of supporting shelter animals.

Beside each rod will be a photo of an animal up for adoption at the FAHS. Artists will receive the proceeds of any artwork sold (minus FEC commission). All proceeds from the exhibit Feb. 12, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., will be donated to FAHS. While at the reception, guests can buy raffle tickets to win a voucher for a portrait of their pet to be painted by well-known local artist

John Leasure. The drawing will be held at 2 p.m. Also, we will have a photo booth set up for pet photos, to be developed almost instantly.

Complimentary refreshments will be served to delight pet owners and their pets, and we will have a bin for donations of pet food for the FAHS.

This exhibit will be a win-win for all involved in this annual event. Artists are encouraged to sign up for a rod by Jan. 25 at the FEC. Three-D items relating to the animal theme are also welcome for the display case, at \$20 for up to three items, space permitting. Application forms are available weekdays at the FEC Office, or on its website at www.eventcenter.org.

Cast announced for upcoming 'Diary of Anne Frank' production



people persecuted under Nazi rule.

Written by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett, and adapted for the stage by Wendy Kesselman, the play has been described by The Associated Press as "A powerful new version that moves the audience to gasps, then tears."

The play captures the claustrophobic realities of the families in hiding as they move through a daily existence mixed with fear, hope, laughter and grief during the two dark years Anne Frank and her family managed to stay alive within the confines of a space that was both safe haven and prison.

Presented by The Last Resort Players and directed by Jennifer Connor and Cathy Dupont, auditions for "Diary of Anne Frank" were held last month, with the following

The story of Anne Frank captured with heartbreaking eloquency in the pages of her diary have been shared on stage, film and countless art forms over the decades. However, newly discovered writings from her diary, along with survivor accounts, have been interwoven into a contemporary and impassioned re-telling of the lives of

cast members announced for the show's April run:

Otto Frank — Dana Rodet
Edith Frank — Kate Gibson
Margot Frank — Brooklyn Cahoon
Anne Frank — Memphis Grieve
Mr. Putti Van Daan — Jim Wellington
Mrs. Petronella Van Daan — Jackie

Crave

Peter Van Daan — Kyle Hight
Jan Dussell — Grant Harmond
Miep — Trudie Cahoon
Mr. Kraler — to be determined
Nazi soldiers: Wayne Sharpe, Taylor Smith, Jamison Smith and James Bonisteel

For more information, visit www.lastresortplayers.org.

